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Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-25 (Canceled).

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) A method for the identification of a candidate modulatory compound that is capable of increasing the expression or activity of ~~an~~ a mammalian *akt* gene nucleic acid sequence, involving:

(a) providing a *C. elegans* nematode or isolated *C. elegans* cell expressing said mammalian *akt* gene nucleic acid sequence, wherein said mammalian *akt* nucleic acid sequence encodes a polypeptide comprising a sequence having at least 95% identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, or 97, and that functions in insulin signaling and

(b) contacting said cell or said nematode with a candidate compound, an increase in *akt* expression or activity following contact with said candidate compound identifying a modulatory compound.

Claim 27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein step (a) comprises providing a *C. elegans* cell.

Claim 28. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein step (a) comprises providing a *C. elegans* nematode.

Claim 29. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said *akt* nucleic acid sequence encodes a polypeptide comprising a sequence identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, or 97, and that functions in insulin signaling.

Claim 30. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said *akt* nucleic acid sequence is a human *akt* nucleic acid sequence.

Claim 31. (New) A method for the identification of a candidate modulatory compound that is capable of increasing the expression or activity of a mammalian *akt* nucleic acid sequence involving:

(a) providing a *C. elegans* nematode or isolated *C. elegans* cell expressing said mammalian *akt* nucleic acid sequence, wherein said mammalian *akt* nucleic acid sequence hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to the complement of a nucleic acid sequence encoding the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, or 97, and that functions in insulin signaling and

(b) contacting said cell or said nematode with a candidate compound, an increase in *akt* expression or activity following contact with said candidate compound identifying a modulatory compound.

Claim 32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein step (a) comprises providing a *C. elegans* cell.

Claim 33. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein step (a) comprises providing a *C. elegans* nematode.

Claim 34. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein said *akt* nucleic acid sequence encodes a polypeptide comprising a sequence identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, or 97, and that functions in insulin signaling.

Claim 35. (New) A method for the identification of a candidate modulatory compound that is capable of increasing the expression or activity of human *akt* nucleic acid sequence involving:

(a) providing a *C. elegans* nematode or isolated *C. elegans* cell expressing said

human *akt* nucleic acid sequence, wherein said human *akt* nucleic acid sequence hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to the complement of a nucleic acid sequence encoding the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, or 97, and that functions in insulin signaling and

(b) contacting said cell or said nematode with a candidate compound, an increase in *akt* expression or activity following contact with said candidate compound identifying a modulatory compound.

Claim 36. (New) The method of claim 26, 31, or 35, wherein said method identifies a candidate modulatory compound for ameliorating or delaying an impaired glucose tolerance condition.

Claim 37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein said glucose tolerance condition is atherosclerosis.

Claim 38. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein said glucose tolerance condition is obesity.